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**Mark Pine Writer-Producer Youngblood Solutions and Partner at Areic Films**

My name is Mark Pine and I currently work as an IT Contractor but I would rather be producing commercial grade films in Michigan.

Last Spring I returned to working in Michigan full time after reluctantly taking a long term contract position in downtown Chicago, IL which began in November 2009.

I did not want to leave but I had been out of work for five consecutive months. At some point I had to join other highly educated, highly skilled and deeply passionate professionals on the Amtrak train heading to Chicago for the work week to support myself and my family in Michigan.

But I was lucky enough during those five months as an unemployed IT Project Analyst to meet Jeff Spillman and Larry August of S3 Entertainment Group. I attended their Intro into the Film Industry course along with over twenty other students. Over ten of them have become close friends for we produced 5 short films in the summer and fall of 2009 with equipment and mentoring provided by S3 Entertainment Group and their staff.

One of these short films that we made with the creative team at Areic Films was viewed by a very successful recording artist. He was very moved and even wept by the content of the film and the courage of those that participated in developing the film. This is an artist with over \$400 million in the bank. He doesn't need to cry about anything.

Another film was cast with the top SAG actors in the area courtesy of Ms. Kathy Mooney of Pound & Mooney Casting. This short film is now showcased by SAG Indie.

Another short film was produced in a competitive setting with a 48 hour time limit to write, direct and edit and deliver the product.

Another film starred an up and coming actor that we were fortunate enough to obtain for the shooting of our fifth film of 2009.

In 2010 many of my peers made it on to the major Hollywood budgeted films and some have even received their union cards but without dedicated film projects there is no work for these very talented people at present.

When I work in the IT field I can employ one person, myself. When I produce a film, I can employ 50-100 people easily through the production cycle. I know the industry I would prefer working in. I want to work in the one in which I can benefit the most people and that would be as a writer and producer of Michigan made films.

Let's be frank. We live in a state that has designed and manufactured automobiles for 100 years. We have the technical, creative and business talent to make as many movies as we

wish. The sticking point however is the financially competitive environment this industry can dictate. Making movies is a wonderful working experience. Everybody wants to do it but Michigan actually has the talent pool to do this and do this well. California knows this but they are hoping we don't realize it ourselves. But we do. We can produce commercial films right here with the right incentive package to attract the best projects and to create our own. We can move people emotionally just as our Auto Industry has been doing for a century.

I have worked alongside professionals who come from advertising, systems engineering, business management, education, fine arts, accounting and now we are energized to work in a new industry as long as we stabilize the financial incentive offering in our state.

I personally, am looking forward to continuing working in this industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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